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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/067,934

02/08/2002

Andrea Manganini

Q68360

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7590

07/27/2005

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EXAMINER

LI, SHI K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/067,934

Applicant(s)

MANGANINI ET AL.

Examiner

Shi K. Li

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GR-1230 (GR-1230-CORE, "SONET Bidirectional Line-Switched Ring Equipment Generic Criteria", Issue 4, December 1998, Chapter 6).

Regarding claims 1 and 4-5, GR-1230 teaches in Chapter 6 protocol for managing a bi-directional ring network (for example, see FIG. 6-2 to FIG. 6-20). GR-1230 teaches in p. 6-16, R6-68 that a protection using ring switch during a cable cut reverts when the protection channels on the failed span are repaired if the ring request is pre-empted (i.e., low-priority traffic has been pre-empted due to the ring switch). That is, GR-1230 teaches to transition from a ring event to a span event when the protection channels have been restored. GR-1230 teaches in p. 6-14 wait-to-restore (WTR) where a timer is triggered and revertive switching occurs only after the expiration of the timer.

Regarding claims 2-3, GR-1230 teaches to send WTR by node adjacent to event (e.g., see message 12a and 12b of FIG. 6-3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GR-1230 (GR-1230-CORE, "SONET Bidirectional Line-Switched Ring Equipment Generic Criteria", Issue 4, December 1998, Chapter 6) in view of Freeman ("Telecommunication System Engineering" by R. Freeman, John Wiley & Sons, 1980, pp. 99-103).

GR-1230 has been discussed above in regard to claims 1-5. The difference between GR-1230 and the claimed invention is that GR-1230 does not teach a computer program and a computer-readable medium. Freeman teaches in Section 12 stored-program control (SPC). Freeman teaches in p 100 to store method steps as program in memory for providing instructions to a controller or computer. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teaching of Freeman with the management protocol of GR-1230 because SPC is flexible and expandable such that it is easy to upgrade the system by rewriting the program. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use SPC, as taught by Freeman, in the management protocol of GR-1230 because SPC is flexible and expandable such that it is easy to upgrade the system by rewriting the program.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 8 April 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that the "revertive switching" regarding the WTR request is for reverting back to the working channels, not protection channels. The Examiner disagrees. R6-67 of GR-1230 (p. 6-16) states, "All protection shall be revertive. This requirement does not

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exclude the use of the infinite WTR time to provide the non-revertive mode of operation." That is, WTR applies to all revertive switching operation and, specifically, WTR applies to revertive switching from a ring event to a span event.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shi K. Li whose telephone number is 571 272-3031. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on 571 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

skl

24 July 2005


JASON CHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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